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LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 17 June 1999, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex

Letter dated 17 June 1999 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach for your information an initial report on the international security force (KFOR) operations.

This report covers the initial phase of operation Joint Guardian. Since then, of course, there have been a number of developments, including, in particular, the further deployment of KFOR, talks with the Russian Federation on their participation and the initiation of discussions with Kosovar Albanian representatives on the demilitarization of Kosovar armed groups. I will send you a written report in due course.

I would appreciate your making the report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier SOLANA

Enclosure 1

Initial report on the international security force (KFOR) operations (12-15 June 1999)

1. Status of the deployment of the international security force (KFOR):

(a) KFOR deployment continued throughout Zone 1 (see attached map) 6 days after the military technical agreement was signed. All the brigades of KFOR are now deployed in their initial area of responsibilities. As provided for in the military technical agreement, KFOR deployment in Kosovo is being synchronized with the phased withdrawal of forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The withdrawal of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia forces from Kosovo continues with two thirds of personnel and equipment being cleared of Zone 1. In general, the Yugoslav Army and the Ministry of the Interior Police are respecting the timetable in the military technical agreement, however, logistic and maintenance difficulties may well delay their withdrawal in the days ahead.

(b) The deployment of the Italian and German Brigades to western Kosovo on the border with Albania has reduced tension in the area and allowed the Yugoslav Army/Ministry of the Interior Police to withdraw with minimal interference from the Kosovar Albanian population. Convoys from Pec and Pristina were escorted by KFOR to deter attacks. The deployment of United States forces (Task Force Falcon) has been advanced and they have assumed responsibility for the Kacanik defile. The French Framework Brigade has advanced westward towards the area around Gnjilane. The French Framework Brigade movement has been somewhat constrained by the constant stream of withdrawing Yugoslav Army/Ministry of the Interior Police vehicles, but they have established excellent liaison with the Yugoslav Army and Ministry of the Interior Police in Gnjilane.

(c) Four United Kingdom Armoured Brigade conducted an extensive patrol programme throughout their area of responsibility to include Pristina without incident. The situation remains tense with incidents of violence between Kosovar Albanians and Kosovar Serbs. The visible presence of KFOR troops is proving to deter violence. Overall, the operation is proceeding as planned.

(d) Liaison with Yugoslav Army and Ministry of the Interior Police commanders in Zones 2 and 3 has started in preparation for phase 2 and phase 3 deployments. Yugoslav Army and Ministry of the Interior Police forces are withdrawing at a steady pace, but their operations have been hampered by traffic congestion, a lack of fuel, and concerns over UCK attacks. The future pace of the withdrawal could also be determined by the availability of heavy equipment transport owing to maintenance problems in the Yugoslav forces resulting from the operational pace of the past several months. The Yugoslav Army is currently using about 22 heavy equipment transports to move armour and heavy equipment out of the Province. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia air defence units are continuing to withdraw from Kosovo in compliance with the military technical agreement, but owing to logistical and communications difficulties, they were unable to meet their 12 June deadline. Isolated clashes between departing Yugoslav Army/Ministry of the Interior Police and UCK elements, as well as burning and looting by departing Yugoslav Army/Ministry of the Interior Police

forces continue to be reported. In some cases, Kosovar Albanian villagers fired on withdrawing Federal Republic of Yugoslavia units. In general, the Yugoslav Army and Ministry of the Interior Police are in compliance with the military technical agreement. However, in the western region of Kosovo, they are unwilling to depart until North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces fill the vacuum between them and the UCK. The UCK established a border control point at Globocica along Kosovo's border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.* UCK uniformed personnel stopped traffic and demanded identity cards and raised the Albanian flag in place of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's flag.

(e) Monday, 14 June 1999, was marred by three incidents, two of which directly involved KFOR troops. In Prizren, two Serbs riding in a passenger car opened fire on German troops with automatic weapons as they drove towards the German soldiers. In self-defence, the soldiers returned fire, killing the driver and wounding the passenger. One of the German soldiers was slightly injured in the exchange of gunfire. In Pristina, British troops shot and killed a Ministry of the Interior Police policeman after he began shooting at the troops. The policeman was warned to stop, but he ignored the warning. In Stimle, just south of Pristina, an unknown assailant shot two German journalists. One of the journalists was killed instantly and the other died later in a British military facility. In Skopje, despite the efforts of our KFOR medical personnel, KFOR released press statements on the shootings, notified Federal Republic of Yugoslavia authorities and urged all sides to cooperate and avoid confrontation.

2. Overall progress of withdrawal of Serb military, police and paramilitary forces and demilitarization of other forces:

(a) Progress of Serb withdrawal. Yugoslav Army/Ministry of the Interior Police appear to be making every effort to comply with the timelines contained in the military technical agreement, nonetheless, there have been a few technical problems and these may lead to some elements not achieving full withdrawal within the required timelines. As of 14 June 1999, approximately half of the Serbian forces had been withdrawn from Kosovo.

(b) Progress of demilitarization of other forces. To date there has been very little progress in the demilitarization of other forces. On a few occasions, UCK fighters handed over their weapons voluntarily in order to return to their homes.

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* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia by its constitutional name.

Enclosure 2

Military technical agreement phased withdrawal